



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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[www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

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### Early Irrigation is Against the Law

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The first three months of 2005 may prove to be the driest start to any year on record in much of Idaho. As a result, some irrigators may be tempted to turn on their pumps a little early. IDWR reminds them that it is against the law for water users to begin utilizing the resource until their water right authorizes it. In many cases, that date is March 15<sup>th</sup> or later.

Irrigators who water early could be issued a Notices of Violation, which can result in civil penalties of up to \$300 per acre.

The Penalty for unauthorized diversions of water for non-irrigation uses is \$50 per one-tenth of a cubic foot per second (45 gallons per minute) for each day of unauthorized use.

If you have questions about authorization provided in your water right, you can contact any IDWR office or check it out on the IDWR website:

[www.idwr.Idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.Idaho.gov)

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